



# INFORMATION UPDATE

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| <b>TO:</b>                | Mayor and Members<br>City Council   |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | November 2, 2020  |
| <b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> | Public Consultation on Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park<br>Strategic Plan Update     |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>  | Wards 1, 13 and 15  |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>      | Jason Thorne<br>General Manager<br>Planning and Economic Development Department.  |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>         |  |

The purpose of this Information Update is to inform City Council about upcoming public consultation on the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark Strategic Plan (2021 – 2030).

## Background

Initiated in 2007, the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park System is a voluntary collaboration of a group of nine partner agencies (City of Hamilton, Halton Region, City of Burlington, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Hamilton Naturalist Club, McMaster University and Royal Botanical Gardens). The partner agencies work collaboratively to implement the vision of the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park System. The vision for the EcoPark is “*that [the Eco-Park System] will be known internationally as a protected, permanent and connected natural lands sanctuary from the Harbour to the Escarpment that promotes ecosystem and human health within Ontario Greenbelt.*”

A Strategic Plan for the EcoPark was originally prepared in 2009 and approved in principle by the Councils and Boards of the participating agencies in 2010. The current Strategic Plan included a recommendation to review and update the Strategic Plan by 2020.

## Strategic Plan and Public Consultation

The Strategic Plan identifies the strategic directions to achieve the vision of the EcoPark System. Over the past year, the Management Committee of the EcoPark has prepared

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Public Consultation on Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park Strategic Plan Update - Page 2 of 2**

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a draft Strategic Plan which was presented to Governing Council at its meeting of October 28, 2020. The following motion was approved by Governing Council:

*“That the Governing Council of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System approves the draft text of the 2021-2030 EcoPark System Strategic Plan for public comment, and requests Management Committee and the Secretariat commence a 30-day on-line public consultation for feedback before seeking formal approval of the plan from all EcoPark System partner governing bodies.”*

The goal of the consultation is to seek input on ways to implement the strategic plan priorities from the EcoPark System partner agency staff, stakeholders and the public. Two online consultation meetings have been planned. The first online meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2020 and will include the Friends of the EcoPark System. The second online meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2020 and will include partner agency staff. Both of these meetings are workshops to discuss ways that agencies and individuals can support the Strategic Plan’s Priority Actions. A third meeting will occur in 2021 and will focus on the financial implications of each Strategic Priority Action.

The Strategic Plan will be available on the EcoPark System website (<http://www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca/strategic-plan>) for review by the public. Members of the public can submit ideas and comments on how to implement the Strategy’s Priority Areas from November 5 to December 2, 2020.

Once consultation is completed, a Final Strategic Plan will be presented to Governing Council for final approval in 2021. Following that approval, partner agencies will be asked to endorse the Strategic Plan. Staff will bring forward a Report to Council seeking endorsement of the final Strategic Plan in the Spring of 2021.

Questions can be directed to Christine Newbold, Manager of Community Planning and GIS at [Christine.Newbold@hamilton.ca](mailto:Christine.Newbold@hamilton.ca) or 905-546-2424 x1279.